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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Journalist found dead in hotel room

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — A free-lance journalist investigating charges of government theft of computer software was found dead in his West Virginia hotel room. He had gone there to talk to a source, acquaintances said yesterday.

Joseph D. Casolaro, 44, of Fairfax, Va., was found dead in his Martinsburg hotel room Saturday, according to police and his brother, Dr. M. Anthony Casolaro.

The body was embalmed before an autopsy could be performed, apparently because officials first ruled the death a suicide, said state Medical Examiner Dr. Irvin Sopher. Police said he was found in the bathtub with a slashed arm and a note was found at the scene. But his brother said he doubted Casolaro committed suicide.

Virginia McCullough, a Sunol, Calif.-based free-lance journalist, said Casolaro had been researching allegations made in 1983 that the Justice Department stole software from INSLAW Inc., a Washington firm. The Justice Department has rejected the charges.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Courier Journal
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